

Appl. No. 09/841,421  
Amdt. dated February 4, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of November 5, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph 30 (line 8) on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings, a large delivery box indicated generally at 10 is made of metal and/or strong plastics material and is shown built into an external masonry wall indicated generally at 12 of a house. The wall conventionally comprises an outer leaf 14 and an inner leaf 16 separated by a cavity 18. The box 10 is securely fixed in the wall 12 by means of projections (not shown) which are concreted into seams in the masonry, and has an outer door 20 with a handle 22 and hinges 24 which is practically flush with the exterior surface 26 of the wall 12. The box 10 projects a short distance into the interior of the house in order to have a useful front-to-back dimension, and has a rear door 28 with a handle 34 openable directly into, and lockable from, said interior to facilitate the removal of deliveries. The box 10 is adapted to be supplied with mains electricity from within the house, to enable it to include both a chilled storage compartment 30 and a frozen storage compartment 32, and also lighting (not shown) if desired. The outer door 20 is openable to enable deliveries to be placed inside the box, but is arranged to lock automatically when it is then closed. This is effectively achieved by employing a digital computerised locking system (not shown) operable by pre-arranged code numbers. Said system can be button- or card-operated in such a way that the door 20 is opened by a pre-arranged single-use code number which is erased from the system's memory when said door is closed and self-locked, there being provided a mechanism, such as a switch, which is engaged when the door is in its fully closed position whereby every time the mechanism is re-engaged a signal is sent to a controller of the locking system causing the code to be cancelled, that is to say erased from the system's memory, as well as causing automatic locking of the door. The box 10 is adapted to be connected

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to a burglar alarm system (not shown) existing within the house. A typical size for a large box 10 suitable for accepting, inter alia, deliveries of food from a supermarket is, say, 1200 millimetres in internal height by 600 millimetres in internal width and depth, but a height of more than two metres is preferably avoided as this would require planning permission. It will be understood that the delivery box 10 just described is a de luxe or top of the range unit. Many of its features can be omitted without departing from the scope of the invention. An external child-resistant grille (not shown) with an opening catch disposed at a high level so as to be difficult for a child to reach then becomes a desirable adjunct to the box 10.

Please replace paragraph 31 (line 26) on page 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring now to Figures 3 and 3a of the drawings, a smaller delivery box indicated generally at 40 which is still large enough to accept supermarket and mail order deliveries is built into an external masonry wall 41 of a house. The box 40 has only an outer door 42 with a handle 44 and hinges 46, which is openable to enable deliveries to be placed inside said box but which locks automatically when it is closed. The locking system employed (can be either) is of the digital computerised type with an associated switch mechanism as (or of the high-security Yale-type) hereinbefore referred to, and an external grille as described in the preceding paragraph can be fitted if desired. The door 42 of the box 40 is fitted with a large letter deposit flap 48 which conveniently opens into a receptacle 49 mounted on the back of said door.

Please replace paragraph 34 (line 22) on page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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Figures 5 and 5a of the drawings show a large delivery box having an outer and only door 62 with a handle 64 and hinges 65 which is secured to the external surface of an exterior wall 66 of a house and to a concrete path 68 adjoining said wall by means of internal and thus inaccessible masonry bolts 70. A typical size for the box 60 is, say, 1500 millimetres in height by 600 millimetres in internal width and depth. The door 62 is openable to enable deliveries to be placed inside said box but locks automatically when it is closed, the locking system being of the digital computerised type with an associated switch mechanism as hereinbefore referred to.